

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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KAETHE KOLLWITZ WORKS HIGHLIGHTED AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

A dozen prints, including lithographs, etchings, and one woodcut; and one charcoal drawing by German artist Kaethe Kollwitz (1867-1945) are on display in the prints and drawings galleries at The Cleveland Museum of Art through July 13.

Kollwitz was one of the most powerfully emotional artists of this century. Married to a doctor in 1891, she settled in a slum section of Berlin where her husband ministered to working class citizens. She began to make etchings, woodcuts, and lithographs, most of which are tragic and many pacifist in nature (her son was killed in the war in 1914 and her grandson in 1942).

Throughout her career Kollwitz maintained a strong interest in the plight of the common person. Through heritage (her grandfather was a socialist) and living in constant contact with misery, she became an ardent socialist, dedicating her art and life to the working masses. Her keen eye discovered the suffering and soul of the degenerate and miserable creatures whom she recorded in compassionate and expressive graphics.

Like Rembrandt, Kollwitz began by etching self-portraits and studies of hands. Three of her self-portraits and two portraits of women are included in the exhibition. Working Woman with Blue Shawl, a lithograph printed in colors is one of these works.

Two works with the same title, Out of Work, (one a woodcut completed in 1925, and the other an etching and softground etching printed in brown in 1909) reflect her daily concern with the troubles of the working class.

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Mary and Elizabeth, a woodcut completed in 1928 is unique because it is a trial proof corrected by Kollwitz with white ink.

The one drawing in the exhibition, A Pregnant Woman Considers Suicide, done in charcoal, is representative of the themes of mother and child, poverty, and death, which dominated much of Kollwitz's work.

The exhibition was organized by Anne Lockhart, assistant curator of prints and drawings at The Cleveland Museum of Art.

Two other German exhibitions, German Expressionist Graphics, and German Drawings from the 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries are also on display in the prints and drawings galleries through October 5 and July 13 respectively.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.